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Biog

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# Frederick A. Goetsch

1882 - 1947



## A TRIBUTE

*This man was honorable through  
and through.*

— A Negro Employee

By

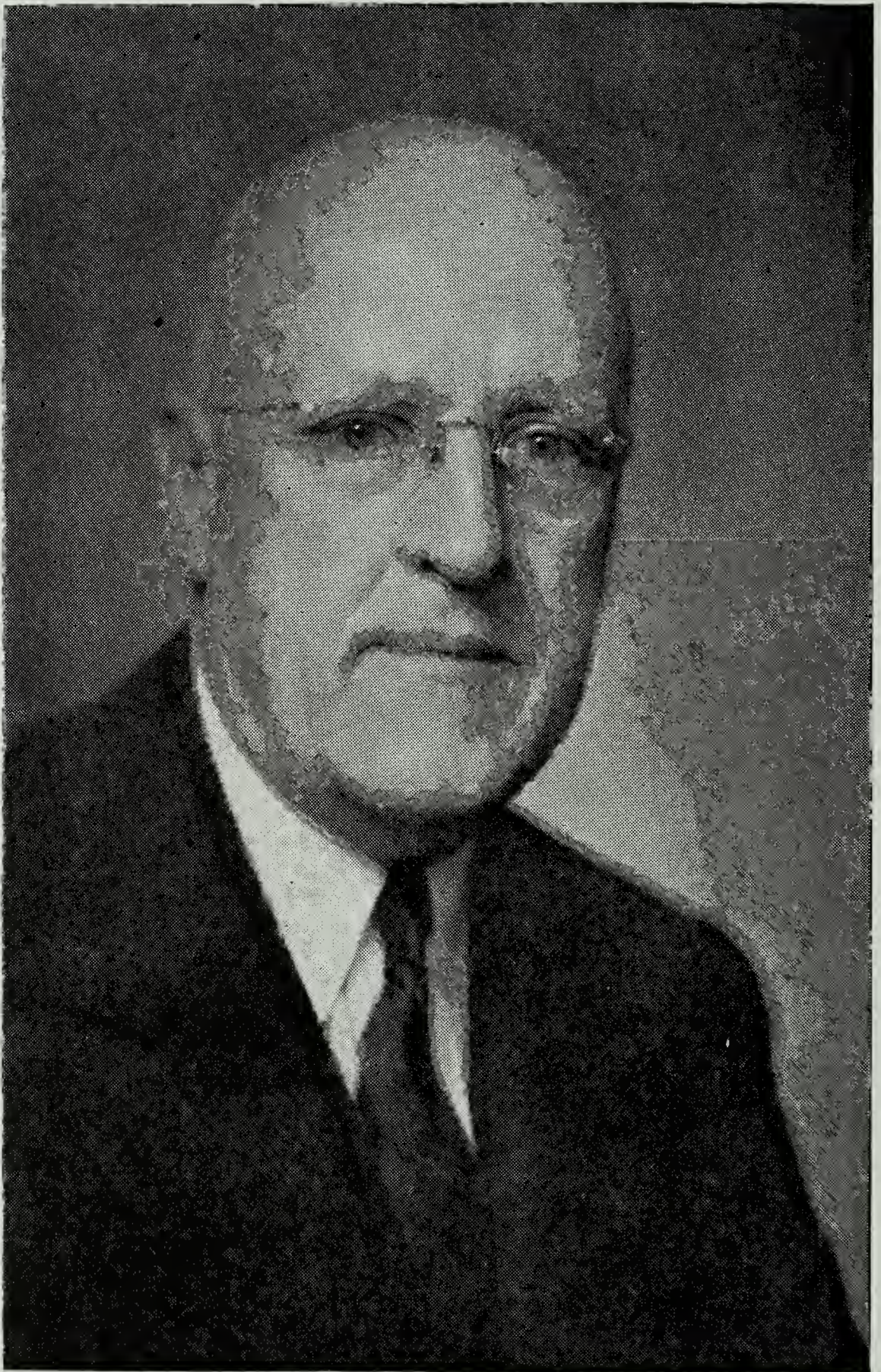
Theophil H. Twente











*F. A. Goetsch*



Rev. Frederick A. Goetsch,  
D.D., Litt.D.

December 7, 1882 - February 16, 1947



*When a man dies, then has the time come  
for putting us in mind that he was alive.*

—Thomas Carlyle

By

THEOPHIL H. TWENTE

The Board of International Missions  
Evangelical and Reformed Church  
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## Introduction

The readers of the following brief record of the life and labor of Dr. F. A. Goetsch will at once discover that it represents a labor of love on the part of a very close friend and associate. Just for this reason the Rev. Theophil H. Twente, in compiling this biography, has rendered an invaluable service to the entire Evangelical and Reformed Church.

The Church has ever sought to glorify the power of the grace of God by keeping alive the memory of its devoted servants. We are living in a day when men are prone to forget the heritage of the past. Too readily do they forget the debt they owe to those whose devotion and service have contributed to their own wellbeing and that of countless others. It shall not be thus in the Church. This brief biography was not written primarily, therefore, as a tribute to Dr. Goetsch. Its evident purpose is to arouse within its readers a new sense of consecration and a new dedication to service by recalling the vital faith, the constant devotion and the

outstanding achievements of a life which had given itself wholly to Christ and, therefore, spent itself in the performance of the mission of the Church.

Not the passing of Dr. Goetsch from this earthly scene to the Church triumphant, therefore, engages our attention in the following pages. The author would praise the name of God because He permitted us to fellowship with a life which, having found in Christ its purpose and goal, came to be a blessing for many thousands in the homeland and in lands across the seas.

The Evangelical and Reformed Church is truly grateful to the Rev. Mr. Twente for the contribution he has made to her history and her ongoing work by compiling this record for us. No one could have been found equally well equipped for this task, for the author of these pages shared with Dr. Goetsch his labors both in India and America.

*L. W. Goebel.*



## Foreword

This short biography is a work of love which has taken on the characteristics of a mosaic. Valuable contributions have been made not only by such whose names appear in the text but by others as well. Additional pieces will be added to the mosaic by persons who will seek to complete their picture of Dr. Goetsch in their Hall of Memory as they read this biography. All will think of him as one of God's noblemen who has gone into a far country to be "made ruler over many things."

*T. H. T.*



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## His Youth

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word.*

—“K” In Ripon’s Selection

Frederick A. Goetsch was the product of divine grace and human endeavor. He was a living example of the truism that great personalities do not just happen. Environment, circumstances, influences, choices, innate drives and divine grace: all had a part in molding his life and character. Those who observed him closely were impressed with the human factors in his makeup. He, on the other hand, was most emphatic in giving due recognition to the grace of God in everything that pertained to his life.

Nevertheless, the human factors in his development from childhood into youth and from youth into manhood were real. Fred had the good fortune of being born of parents who were sound in body, mind and soul, and they, in turn, had their rootage in good, pious, German ancestry.

The young pioneers did not always find it easy going. Fred recalled with pride,

bordering on awe, how at one time his father had walked to work each morning, week after week, with the same cigar stub in his mouth, a symbol of undaunted courage in the face of adverse conditions in the lumber business. Yes, there was just enough of rugged individualism and pioneer conditions in the life of their day to make for sinews of steel in the personalities of their sons, Fred, Edwin and Walter,—the latter, however, dying at an early age.

The family was devoutly religious. It was the custom in the Goetsch household to have family devotions not only at the table following both morning and evening meals, but also in the family circle just before retiring. Fred continued this practice throughout his life. The Hymnal and the Bible constituted their devotional literature. Just before the prayer a hymn, if not sung, was always read in its entirety, no matter how many and long the stanzas. Even when Fred was not yet three years old, his parents taught him to sing:

O, so mach's wie Daniel,  
Steh' fest fuer den Herrn.  
Wag es mit getrostem Mut,  
Zeuge fuer ihn gern.



(Oh, so be like Daniel,  
Stand firmly for the Lord.  
Dare, with confident courage  
To witness for your God.)

And he sang it lustily and joyfully on many occasions, often receiving a nickel for his efforts,—a sum which seemed huge to him in those days. The song, as it happened, had one very high note—too high for a child's voice—but undaunted he would go after that note with gusto, and the longer he held it, the more quickly the nickel would be forthcoming.

We are told that when Fred had decided to turn down his promising business career to study theology in order to prepare himself for missionary work in India, it struck a part of his family rather forcibly; since this would mean that he would have to leave home, family, loved ones and live in a far off country. But Fred reminded them of the hymn with its glorious exhortation. There was no further question about his decision after that.

Father Goetsch gave an interesting evidence of his religious nature on Saturday evenings when the church bells rang. For

no matter where he was or what he was doing, he would stop and reverently fold his hands, utter a prayer, and then say: "Nun faengt der liebe Sonntag an." (Now the dear Sunday has begun.) This importance of the Sabbath was further emphasized by the fact that all shoes had to be shined on Saturday. This was Fred's special chore. However, he made the most of the occasion. Those of his playmates who are still among the living recall with a strong nostalgia how he used to improve the occasion by telling stories. They can still see him as he stood at the top of the old-fashioned cellar steps, leading from the yard into the basement, swinging his brush in rhythmic strokes to the moods of the story. No doubt he had inherited his love for stories and his aptitude for telling them from his father "who was a unique artist at telling stories, particularly Bible stories. Any story he told was alive, real and romantically vivid. It was no longer a mere story when Father Goetsch told it. It was a part of him, and Fred had much of the same gift of story telling."

Sunday was indeed a holy day for the entire family. New shoes and clothing were never worn until they had first been worn



to church. The best of everything was set aside for God and His beloved Church. This attitude toward God and His Church remained an outstanding characteristic with every member of the family throughout the years in spite of changing conditions in society at large. When in later life it became necessary for Fred to travel widely, he always sought to arrange his itinerary so as to enable him to worship in a church service on Sunday morning.

Christian holidays, likewise, played an important role in the Goetsch family. Christmas marked a special high point in the experiences of the children. Arising early on Christmas morning, they would wait with eager anticipation for six o'clock to come when their father would give them the signal to blow their horns and shout "Merry Christmas" at grandfather's door. A young aunt always spent Christmas Eve in the home of the Goetsches. And what fun they had! Quite often Fred slept on an ironing board to make his bed available for his favorite guest.

St. Peter's Evangelical Church in St. Louis became for him and his brothers, not only a place of worship and Sunday School, but

also a parochial school where they were given their elementary training. It was here that Fred passed through the first six grades and then completed the seventh and eighth in the Webster School. When he entered in the employ of the Peter's Shoe Company as an office boy, he continued his secondary education privately, among other things taking four years of study at the Berlitz Language School.

His training and experience with the Peter's Shoe Company, first as an office boy and later as an employee in the Bookkeeping Department, prepared him in a special way for his duties as a missionary in India and later as executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the Evangelical Synod and of the Board of International Missions of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

He loved financial problems. They always presented a joyful challenge to him. No doubt one of the most outstanding contributions to the program of international missions in the Evangelical and Reformed Church was the fact that he put the work on a sound financial basis.



## Called of God

*We must make Christ known, loved, and obeyed throughout the world.*

—John R. Mott

There is no record as to just when and where Fred Goetsch received his call from God. Even as a boy he had a passion for missions and said he wanted to become a missionary. In all probability the awareness of the call was the result of a growing interest in missions as well as a deepening in his spiritual life. His decision to become a missionary was like the bursting forth of a subterranean stream. It would have been out of harmony with his general make-up to have visions and unusual manifestations. His religious development was like that of a sturdy oak rather than that of a banana stalk. Fred's interest in missions in time became for him a natural expression of his inner life and faith in Jesus Christ as the Saviour of all mankind.

No doubt the following story related by Dr. Goetsch concerning a certain missionary candidate throws some light on his own ex-

perience as it related itself to his call to be a missionary. The candidate was asked: "Why do you feel called to be a missionary?" Her response was instantaneous: "Why should I not feel called? I have the necessary training. I am sound in body and mind. I have faith in Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world. There is nothing to keep me from going. Why should I not heed the command, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel'?"

Fred Goetsch entered Eden Seminary in September of 1905. Although he never sought to push himself into the foreground, his fellow students soon took notice of him and felt attracted to him. Before long he had won their love and respect.

Upon graduation in June, 1908, he was sent to organize St. Paul's Evangelical Church in Toledo, Ohio. This church has since developed into a flourishing congregation.

## The Missionary

*We have a grand and glorious task; to make Christ known, loved, obeyed and witnessed to everywhere.*

—F. A. Goetsch

His first year as a missionary in India was given entirely to the study of the Hindi language. Like all missionaries he had certain language difficulties to overcome. For instance, the word for “seven” is “sat.” The word for “sixty” is “sath.” In the first instance, the “t” is sounded by placing the tongue just in back of the teeth; in the second instance, by placing it under the roof of the mouth. The first means “seven,” the second “sixty.” Until the student has acquired the habit of placing the tongue in the right position at the right time, he is likely to say one thing when he means another, and that is exactly what happened to this young missionary in some of the first church services which he conducted,—he said “sixty,” when he meant “seven” with the result that there was considerable confusion. However, in time he became quite



proficient in the use of the Hindi language.

During his second year in India, he was placed in charge of the Mahasamund station area. His work here was chiefly evangelistic with the supervision of a small dispensary, an English Middle School and a number of Primary Schools included. Valuable hints regarding the use of certain remedies were obtained from his senior missionaries, Hagenstein and Gass. It was also while here that Missionary Goetsch found a consecrated helpmeet in Miss Katherine Bruckner, a missionary serving at Bistrampur. She continued to share in his missionary joys and sorrows until the time of her death, February 20, 1931. In 1940 Dr. Goetsch found a second helpmeet in Miss Paula Jens of St. Louis, who, by her gracious personality, keen sense of humor and radiant smile, added luster to his high position as General Secretary of the Board of International Missions.

In seeking to develop into "a workman that needeth not be ashamed," Missionary Goetsch carefully studied the policies and methods of older missionaries; however, not without asking himself the question as to whether they might not be improved upon. Missionary Seybold and I shall never forget

the advice he gave us upon our arrival in India: "Now," said he, "when you see something in the beginning of your missionary career with which you cannot fully agree, don't be hasty in passing judgment. Wait a year, and if after that you still feel as you did in the beginning, voice your convictions clearly but in a spirit of love and goodwill." We have often been grateful to him for this advice. It saved us from many an embarrassment and taught us how to look at a question from all angles. This same policy motivated Dr. Goetsch throughout his public career. If, for example, opinions were expressed in a meeting with which he just could not agree, or things were done which he could not sanction, instead of openly attacking his opponent or becoming heated and pointed in his attack, he would say: "In my opinion that is a point not well taken." On the other hand, if he had been convinced, he would say: "That is a point very well taken." His arguments were always characterized by clarity and conviction. He was a past master in being able to think on his feet. No doubt the explanation for this is to be found in the fact that he had his thought processes under control at all times.

Missionary Goetsch was never revolutionary or reactionary in his thoughts and actions. In all matters he was liberally conservative. He knew how to build on old foundations. He won the respect of missionaries and nationals alike. His absolute integrity and genuine interest in all with whom he came in contact won their love and respect. His years as an evangelistic missionary (a term which is used to cover a multitude of duties) were marked by thoroughness and consecration. His primary interest was always in the well-being of his fellowman, no matter who he might be.

During the greater part of his life in India he held positions of responsibility in the Missionary Conference and interdenominational organizations in addition to his general missionary duties. He was active in organizing the India Mission District of the Evangelical Synod, which later developed into the Chhattisgarh and Orissa Church Council. He also served as its first president. Those who worked with him remember with gratitude his concern for the kind of an organization that should make it possible for the local churches to become an integral part of a native church instead of a foreign



missionary organization. How well he succeeded in this can easily be seen from the naturalness with which the India Mission District developed into the Chhattisgarh and Orissa Church Council which is now a part of the United Church of Northern India.

Missionary Goetsch was also present in 1916 when Dr. John R. Mott organized the National Christian Council of India with its several Provincial Councils, an organization which has done so much to promote co-operation between missions and churches in India.

No account of Mr. and Mrs. Goetsch in India would be complete without a special reference to their work among orphans. What John Oxenham has said became eminently true of them:

Blessed are the childless,—loving children still, Theirs shall be a mightier family, even as the stars of heaven.

They loved each boy and girl with a special love. They sought to give them all the sympathy and understanding that orphan children are so much in need of. When it became known that their “Papaji” and

“Mamaji” were returning to America, perhaps never to return, the boys and girls of the Bisrampur orphanages and hostels wept bitterly, while their foster parents experienced an anguish of heart no less painful. Almost twenty years later, when his successor went through one of the drawers of his desk in the St. Louis office, he found an envelope addressed, “Hamare nij Papaji ko” (“to our very own daddy”). This address symbolized the attitude of all the boys and girls who knew him as a missionary in India. They all regarded him as their very own daddy. When after eighteen years he visited the mission field as the secretary of the Board, a number of his “children” walked more than seventy miles to greet him. Can anyone doubt the power of the love that he and Mrs. Goetsch had for those children?

We can do no better than close this chapter with a number of observations by Dr. Davis who knew Dr. Goetsch intimately for forty years, and, together with his family, lived with him and Mrs. Goetsch in the same home at Bisrampur, India, for two years.

“Though our two children were mischievous at times,” he writes, “Rev. and Mrs. Goetsch

were always gracious. They were great lovers of children and extremely solicitous for the individual welfare of each of the many boarders and orphans in their charge.

“Goetsch was a fine conversationalist, always profitable. Never in forty years have I heard him tell an improper story, nor did he ever make a disparaging remark about anyone.

“He was very firm but always kind in his dealings with Indian fellow-workers,—expecting much from them but more from himself. He was always interested in the welfare of individuals. He knew more than a thousand people by name in Bistrampur and Ganeshpur. He was a good disciplinarian,—impatient with insincerity and hypocrisy.

“At no time while in India did he seem to live beyond the status of the rest of us, although able to do so. In this also he did not wish to embarrass anyone.

“He was extremely conscientious in all business and financial matters. The British and Foreign Bible Society and Christian Tract and Book Society of India found in him a loyal friend and generous contributor.

“Goetsch was faithful and serious in his preaching, conscientious in the preparation



of his sermons and in confirmation instruction. He was a great admirer of his father and of his former pastor, the Rev. J. F. Klick, to whom he repeatedly paid grateful and high tribute."

When "God blest the Sabbath and hallowed it," he must have had the early twentieth century missionaries of India in mind in a special way, for, once a week, on Sunday afternoon, immediately after dinner the postman would bring the "home" mail. This meant hours of sweet communion with loved ones in the homeland. The Goetsches were no exception in this respect. The Rev. Armin F. Meyer, who also spent some time in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Goetsch upon his arrival in India, tells how they would spend a good part of their time in reading the mail and then in writing letters to their parents, relatives and friends. They were very faithful in their correspondence. Fred never failed to write his parents every week.

## Board Secretary

*His growth in moral and spiritual stature kept apace with an increase in his responsibilities.*

—J. Gass

Upon his return to America on furlough in 1927, Dr. Goetsch was challenged by the Foreign Mission Board of the Evangelical Synod of North America to become the associate to Dr. Paul A. Menzel. His response was characteristic. Although he would have preferred to return to India, he felt duty bound to obey the call.

Trust and obey for there is no other  
way

To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and  
obey,

was one of the hymns which he always sang with a lot of enthusiasm. When circumstances arose to put his faith to a test, he did not falter, but obeyed and trusted God to see him through.

Miss Hilda Huefe, one of his secretaries, describes how, as an instructor at the Elm-

hurst Leadership Training School in 1920, Dr. Goetsch was always in the center of groups of students and teachers. When asked about the dangers connected with missionary service he answered that dangers are not too great when one takes the necessary precautions. Moreover, one must never forget that God has called him to His service. Oh, yes, there were poisonous snakes. Once during the rainy season, as Dr. Goetsch opened the screen door after dark, a coiled serpent fell down on his shoulder, but as he had on a raincoat it did not injure him.

“When he was called to be the associate of Dr. Menzel in 1928, he and Mrs. Goetsch spent a month with us in Washington,” states Miss Huefe. “There our office consisted of one large front room in the home of Dr. Menzel. We placed a table and chair in front of one of the three windows overlooking Rock Creek valley, and there Dr. Goetsch, who was to be the candidate secretary and carry on the interdenominational relationships, sat by the hour poring over books dealing with missionary and church history and delving into records in order to acquaint himself with all phases of the work, denominational and interdenominational. A



new book sent in for review he would read at a single sitting. At the time he hoped to locate his office in Washington, but the Board asked him to open an office in the Synod Building in St. Louis."

In August of 1934, one month after Dr. Menzel's death, Miss Huefe went to St. Louis to become office secretary to Dr. Goetsch. She observes that he always took his secretaries into full confidence, sharing with them every bit of good news, every problem, and even the most confidential board matters. "It is essential that you know the full details in order that you may act intelligently when I am not here," he would say at the beginning of each office conference. When matters had been fully discussed he would conclude by saying, "Now that you know the details, I rely on you to keep these things confidential. I never have had cause to believe that you have betrayed the trust which I place in you, and I don't believe I ever will."

His work necessitated that he be away from the office much of the time. Each year, from the middle of August until the middle of September he was obliged to seek relief from the St. Louis climate in order to gain relief from hay fever. Twice, in 1935-36 and

1938-39, he made a trip around the world and visited the mission fields. On the latter occasion he was also a delegate to the World Missionary Conference in Madras, India.

Dr. Goetsch was always kind yet firm. He could not condone wastefulness. Although there was no time-clock, he expected workers to be punctual. When he assigned tasks, he expected the work to be finished at the allotted time. When reports had to be written, budgets prepared, or when Board, Executive Committee or other meetings were in the offing, his usual words were, "Well, girls, the pressure is on," and they knew there would be no let-up until the particular task had been completed. However, if he found a good editorial, joke or cartoon in the paper, he would be sure to share it before settling down to work in the morning or at noon. He always kept them posted on the political or economic high spots of our own and other countries, doing so in a few brief sentences. He had a keen sense of what was just and right.

He inspired people to be their best. "He prayed as well as counselled with candidates and inquirers for missionary service," states his secretary. "Prayers of thanksgiving

were offered up for the safe return of missionaries and last visits to the office of outgoing missionaries were always terminated by earnest prayer.”

No matter how busy, he was ever ready to listen to and share in personal problems. No one with a just petition ever went away unheard. Such consultations were confidential between the visitor and Dr. Goetsch, and he regarded confidence as a sacred trust. He must have helped many students with loans in order to complete their education, for he frequently said that it always helped to restore his faith in mankind when young people made an earnest effort to repay loans, and he always added that his trust in young people had seldom been betrayed, sometimes it would take a long time but they always came through with flying colors, even though it did take a long time.

His love for children which had been such an outstanding characteristic with him as a missionary in India, continued to manifest itself in his office as secretary. Frequently pastors brought their confirmation classes to acquaint them with the work of the various offices in the Synod Building. Sometimes parents brought their children with them, as



they came to call on Dr. Goetsch. On such occasions he always took a special delight in making the children happy. His secretary recalls that there used to be a candy vending machine in the hall near his office, and that Dr. Goetsch enjoyed taking visiting children out there and giving them nickels to drop into the machine just to see their faces light up when the candy bars came out. He expressed his regret when the machine was removed at the beginning of the war.

When he was called to be the General Executive Secretary of the Board of International Missions, he hoped that he might be permitted to remain in St. Louis and not be called upon to make the extra effort to relocate in Philadelphia, especially as his physician had warned him against all undue exertion. However, when it was suggested that he ask the Board to reconsider its resolution to have him move to Philadelphia, he said, "My father always said: 'A good soldier goes where he is sent. I told the Board just what I told you, yet it voted that the office should be in Philadelphia, so I am going. If God wants me to serve there, He will give me the strength to go through with it.' "

Further statements solicited by the author

of this brochure from the secretarial associates of Dr. Goetsch, constitute not only a glowing tribute to his work as Executive Secretary of the Board of International Missions, but also give valuable insights into his character and personality. We shall quote, first of all, the statement of his co-secretary, Dr. A. V. Casselman:

“To record a tribute to the memory of my co-secretary comrade, Dr. F. A. Goetsch, is a privilege both tender and solemn. In long years of service I have been associated with co-workers in various types of missionary secretaryship; but my experience as a co-secretary is linked only with the name of Dr. Goetsch. The thing I like to remember about it is that it was not only a co-secretaryship but also a congenial comradeship.

“I was first attracted to Dr. Goetsch when I learned he had been a missionary in India for seventeen years. That meant much to me. Then when I learned that he supported himself, my admiration for him grew. When later I came to realize he had sacrificed a certainly successful business career and large potential wealth to which his conspicuous talents gave assurance, I recognized in him one of God’s real stewards of both life and

possessions. To him big business was God's business. There are American Christian men like that. The list is not long but Dr. Goetsch was in it.

"The merger of our churches brought us together as co-secretaries with differing missionary tradition, training and technique; and the missionary problems of the merger of the two mission boards were neither simple nor subordinate. Yet in all those days of difficult and serious administration we never had a disagreement over a major matter. When people agree on the big things of the Kingdom of God, the lesser find their lower and proper level. So our co-secretaryship was a comradeship.

"In those days of fraternal fellowship I came to know and admire in Dr. Goetsch such characteristics as these: his unswerving faithfulness to duty as he saw it; his meticulous attention to the details of that duty; his constant concern for the long-distance missionary purpose and plan; his quiet, unostentatious giving, purposely and skillfully designated, and the inner joy he got from it; his never failing graciousness and courtesy; and, above all, his superb consecration.

"I had a long conference with Dr. Goetsch



two days before he left on his last trip. We talked intimately about our common concern—our faltering, fickle hearts. I advised him not to go. But he said that he felt he must and then he would rest awhile. So he went and came back and entered into his long rest. ‘Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life.’”

Such was the estimate of a seasoned co-secretary in the great cause of international missions. But the young associate, who must first acquaint himself with the intricacies of missionary administration was no less quick to discern the outstanding qualities of his senior secretary. “It was a privilege and a delight to work with Dr. Frederick A. Goetsch,” writes the Rev. Dobbs F. Ehlman, Ph.D. “Now in spite of the fact that God has called him from our midst, it seems that he is still with us as an unseen friend and associate. His life has made it easy for the rest of us to keep faith in the Resurrection.”

Dr. Ehlman saw in him the qualities of “a true and beloved leader. He was always cheerful, no matter how heavy the load. He was fair and equitable in his judgments, no matter how complex the issues. He was patient and kind with his associates when

they were confused. He had a very exceptional ability to speak and act in terms of Christian courtesy and sympathy. Prayer must have been a very real thing in the habits of his mind and soul. Like a good missionary, he had a faith adequate to endure discouragements, and to labor in accord with God's mercy and justice in Christ."

The Rev. John H. Poorman, who for more than thirty-five years has served the missionary cause of his denomination in his fine, humble and unostentatious way as assistant secretary and treasurer, makes this observation with regard to Dr. Goetsch: "His self-sacrificing life was a constant inspiration. His devotion was complete. Ever on the lookout for qualified young people to serve on the foreign field, he was especially happy when the time for commissioning the new missionaries arrived."

In his comments Mr. Poorman refers to another special source of joy for Dr. Goetsch. "Some of the happiest moments in his busy days in the office," he writes, "were the days when he received word of a new congregation which had assumed the support of a missionary. He had an unbounded faith in the Church and her ability to do

greater things for the Kingdom. He frequently said that the best days for Missions lie ahead."

And Mrs. Poorman, the efficient accountant of the Board of International Missions, adds: "I like best of all to remember his last few hours in the office that late Friday afternoon. He had but a few hours between the train bringing him back from Ohio and the one he must catch. Rushed as he was, he still came to each one of us individually; he shook hands, and with a smile, tired though he was, bade us an unhurried, cordial farewell."

His secretary, Mrs. Clark, states: "I personally, never listened to Dr. Goetsch for ten minutes without learning something of interest either about the missionary enterprise, the Church, or things in general. Dr. Goetsch didn't limit his conversations with me to matters that concerned exclusively my own small job. He discussed all matters openly with those with whom he worked, believing that only in this way could we cooperate completely and with best results. He broadened my outlook considerably and I shall never forget him and the things for which he stood."



Mrs. Kerschner, who was privileged to be associated with Dr. Goetsch for only a short time states: "After working for a number of years in our so-called 'modern business world' under various types of employers, it was a refreshing revelation to work for someone like Dr. Goetsch. For me he shall always be the perfect example of a man who was one with God and through whom God worked His will here on earth."

The Board of International Missions, who during the course of years had learned to rely upon his judgment and to trust him fully as its executive secretary, naturally felt his loss more keenly than any other group or organization in the Evangelical and Reformed Church. It gave expression to this sense of loss in the following dignified and sincere statement at the time of its meeting in Cleveland on June 3, 1947:

Inasmuch as the Heavenly Father has called from the scene of his earthly activities our beloved Executive Secretary, Dr. F. A. Goetsch, therefore the Board of International Missions adopts the following resolutions:

1. The passing of Dr. Goetsch has removed from the Evangelical and Reformed Church a beloved and efficient leader whose influence

reached far beyond the confines of our own fellowship, for his interests were truly Kingdom-centered and his activities were in no small measure in the field of interdenominational work.

2. The Board of International Missions will ever remember Dr. Goetsch as a statesman-like missionary, an efficient and fair-minded executive, a faithful and congenial co-worker, and a dearly beloved friend. We thank God for the privilege of having worked under the direction of so faithful and capable a leader and pray for grace to emulate his fine example of Christian character and service.

3. The Board renews its assurance of deep sympathy to the widow of Dr. Goetsch and to all members of the bereaved family with the prayer that God make very real to her the comfort and blessing of a firm faith in Jesus Christ, the Lord of Life.

The Board states that "his influence reached far beyond the confines of his own fellowship." This fact is borne out by the many letters and cablegrams received from missionary statesmen all over the world. Without quoting their messages, we shall list only a few of the senders:

J. W. Decker, Executive Secretary, International Missionary Council.

Wynn C. Fairfield, Executive Secretary, Foreign Missions Conference.

Winfred P. Elson and Associates, Staff, Foreign Missions Conference.

Sue Weddell, India Committee, Foreign Missions Conference.

Rowland M. Cross, Secretary for East Asia, Foreign Missions Conference.

A. W. Wasson, Committee on Cooperation in Latin America.

Ella T. Rossman, Vellore Christian Medical College Board.

Eric M. North, American Bible Society.

Paul Das, Secretary, North India Christian Tract and Book Society.

K. Demura, President, North Japan College.

Robert J. McMullen, Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China.

Paul L. Ward, Hua Chung (Central China) College, Wuchang, China.

H. Vedder, Rheinische Mission, Okahandja, S. W. Africa.



W. Stanley Rycroft, Executive Secretary,  
United Andean Indian Mission.

F. F. Goodsell, Executive Vice-President,  
American Board of Commissioners for  
Foreign Missions.

A. E. Armstrong, The United Church of  
Canada.

Frank T. Cartwright, Associate Secretary,  
Division of Foreign Missions of the  
Board of Missions and Church Extension  
of the Methodist Church.

F. M. Potter, Board of Foreign Missions  
of the Reformed Church in America.

In 1928 Dr. Goetsch had been called as Associate Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Evangelical Synod of N. A., with special responsibility "for carrying on interdenominational relationships." Can there be any doubt that during the twenty years of his secretaryship, he was faithful in the discharge of this as well as other phases of his commission?

## He Lives !

*He still lives in the great achievements, but primarily in the kindliness of heart, the purity of character, in the love for his God, his fellowmen and his Church.*

—August C. Rasche

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the week preceding his death, Dr. Goetsch attended the meetings in Columbus, Ohio, of the Cooperative Council of Missionary Education, Committee on Correlation and Promotion, Committee on Finance and Budget, and of the General Council. On Friday he spent the greater part of the day in his office to take care of some important matters before leaving for Atlantic City, where he and his wife were planning to spend a couple of weeks in complete rest in accordance with the orders of his physician. The following evening they went out for a leisurely stroll along the Board Walk. Mrs. Goetsch relates how the people turned to look at him. Evidently they saw a glory in his eyes that she had not detected as she walked by his side. Like Moses "his face

shone and he wist it not." That evening, while resting in a chair because of difficulty in breathing, the Angel of Death came to summon him. When in the early hours of Sunday morning, February 16, the doctor was called, he pronounced him dead due to a heart attack.

But was he dead? "I do not believe, I will not believe that a life so full of beauty as that of Fred A. Goetsch can go down in the darkness of oblivion," asserted Dr. John Lentz in his memorial address in Philadelphia on February 18. And Dr. Louis W. Goebel in his moving sermon on February 20, in St. Peter's Church, St. Louis, Mo., was equally as emphatic in asserting his faith in the resurrection of Fred A. Goetsch.

He lives. He lives in the many things he accomplished as a missionary in India and as a secretary of the Board of International Missions. But those accomplishments were made possible because he laid the foundations for a successful life in his youth. He was a five-star man. He kept his body under subjection, dieting when necessary to keep his weight within limits. He cultivated his mind. He was well read. In his books he found rest, supporting strength, comfort,



guidance from the strife of the outside world. He travelled and visited many important historical and religious places and so possessed a well-stored mind and a fund of information seldom excelled. He developed social graces until they became the natural expression of his every-day life in every conceivable situation. He practiced stewardship. When in recent years his broker suggested to him that now it would be a good time to make certain investments, Dr. Goetsch refused, saying that he would give all his earnings to the alleviation of human suffering. But above all, he was faithful in the nurture of his soul. Perhaps his greatest victory lay in the fact that when others would have been tempted to forget God, having grown rich in the material things of life, he drew ever closer to Him. He never lost sight of the grace of God.

Dr. Goetsch lives in the lives of the pastors who were privileged to minister to him and who, because of his presence in the services and other meetings held in the church, inspired them to offer their best. Rev. Elmer H. Hoefer, pastor of St. Peter's Church, St. Louis, Missouri, relates this revealing experience: "In May, 1946, I moved to St.

Louis to become pastor of St. Peter's Church in which Dr. Goetsch had been baptized, confirmed, ordained, commissioned as missionary, and from whose sanctuary his mortal body was carried to its final resting place. It was the church of his parents before him. Many of his kith and kin were members here. Though he had transferred his residence to Philadelphia when he became general secretary of the Board of International Missions, and had become active in Trinity Church there, yet St. Peter's was always 'home' to him and his dear wife. With that fine sensitivity that was his, he intuitively felt how lonely and homesick a brother-pastor might be during those first days in a new charge, amid strange surroundings. In the midst of our moving, with familiar furniture and books placed into new positions amid unfamiliar places, always remembering with nostalgia their former setting, a message and a bouquet of roses appeared at the parsonage, welcoming us to St. Louis. On the first Sunday in a new pulpit, facing a sea of strange faces, who should be smiling encouragingly from the congregation but Dr. and Mrs. Goetsch, who had arranged to be in St. Louis on that Sunday, coming all

the way from Philadelphia, to make the new pastor feel at home.

“And as if that were not enough, sensing that the family cupboard would not be functioning normally after a thousand-mile transplanting, an invitation was forthcoming to have dinner with them at a downtown hotel. When Dr. Goetsch lay in state before the altar of the church, one of the little fellows, unmindful of the importance of the man, or the magnitude of his position, said, ‘That’s the nice man who took us out to eat at the hotel, right after we got here.’ When insignificant lads grow up into men of stature, it is probable that their measure of the greatness of men who have gone before, will hinge, not so much on their titles, positions, or achievements, but upon their remembrance of the little courtesies and expressions of kindness that loomed large in the eyes of little children.”

Yes, he lives in the lives of such who experienced his special thoughtfulness. He lives in the handshake of the little girl who said: “His smile and handshake were always something ‘special’ when he came to St. Louis. I shall miss him but know God is happy to have somebody ‘special’ to live with Him.”



Dr. Goetsch lives in the lives of young college students who "feel especially privileged to have shared his sense of humor, his deep devotion, and his unlimited kindness and generosity."

He lives in the lives of the homes he helped to build. Many a honeymoon was made sweeter and more beautiful because of the way Dr. Goetsch remembered the young couple. His own married life was a noble example in a day of strained and broken family ties.

He lives in the life of the common villager in India. In the course of his years in Bismampur, Dr. Goetsch left his imprint on the lives of these people. Much of his spirit has become their spirit, and together they have come very close to The Spirit.

A missionary speaks of his continuing life in these words: "We have been sitting together this evening and thinking and speaking of Dr. Goetsch whom all of us loved and revered. How many delightful and happy times we have had together; we recalled his friendship, warm and so very sincere and true; and the joy and pleasure always manifested when with his friends. He lived a good part of his life in his friends. Their

joys and sorrows, their problems and successes were all his. And not one of his friends but felt that he was sharing himself generously and joyously with them. Those memories will always enrich our lives as we go on without him; and as we think of him, thus it just seems as though he is still with us, still at his accustomed place and post."

He lives in the hospitals, churches and schools which he helped to build, some of them entirely with funds provided by him personally or obtained through his special efforts.

He lives in the mission policies he helped to enunciate and the plans he helped to lay. He lives in the merger already consummated and in the merger soon to be affected. "How we shall miss him," writes the Executive Vice-president of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, "particularly in the further negotiations relative to the union of these two great foreign boards." Yes, we shall miss him. But thank God for the part he was privileged to have in the preliminary discussions and contributions he made.

While writing this, a brother-pastor re-

minded us that Dr. Goetsch does not only live in our memories and in the lives of those who were ennobled because of their contact with him; he lives as one of "the great cloud of witnesses" which encompasses us. Once again Dr. Lentz asserts: "He lives. He speaks. What is he saying? I think he is saying: 'Young men and women who have assembled here to pay tribute to my life, build a new world, not a world governed by hate and regulated by force. Build a world in which men everywhere shall share God's good gifts, a world based on service to God and humanity, a world governed by love and the spirit of brotherhood. Build that kind of a world for God and His glory.' "



Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

—*Hebrews 12:1*



















The Board of International Missions  
EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH

SCHAFF BUILDING  
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Philadelphia 2, Pa.

EVANGELICAL SYNOD BUILDING  
1720 Chouteau Avenue  
St. Louis 3, Mo.

Dear Missionary Friends:

We present this little booklet as a tribute of love and appreciation to our beloved and sainted leader, Dr. Frederick A. Goetsch.

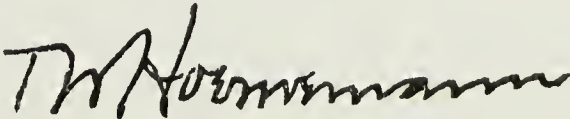
As a Christian gentleman and missionary statesman he has left abiding impressions at home and abroad. His greatest monument will ever be the lives of the many who through his unassuming generosity and inspiring leadership learned to know, love, and obey Christ. Our missionary fields in every part of the world were the beneficiaries of his benevolence, and are dotted with material evidences of his goodness and generosity.

Friends and congregations have suggested to the Board that we might give them an opportunity to express their gratitude and pay their tribute to Dr. Goetsch in some visible way. The Board of International Missions has therefore decided to erect mission bungalows in India and Africa as memorials.

India was the beginning of the wide and useful missionary endeavor of Dr. Goetsch, and Africa's call was ever with him. All of his fellow-associates are grateful that he could still see the establishment of mission work in the "dark continent" by our Church.

We are confident that congregations and individuals will regard it a high privilege to make contributions to the proposed memorials of this truly great and beloved Churchman. Contributions may be sent to either office.

Sincerely,

  
President

October, 1947.

